

Appl. No. 09/749,285

Reply to Office action of May 28, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for connecting a first optical connector to a second optical connector, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having at least a first end and at least a second end, the first end of the housing capable of receiving the first optical connector, and the second end of the housing capable of receiving the second optical connector;

a longitudinal cavity extending from the first end of the housing to the second end of the housing; and

an elastomeric pressure ring member proximate to the first end of the housing and capable of generating an outward elastomeric force.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the elastomeric ~~member~~ pressure ring is capable of facilitating the connection of the housing to a mounting structure.

18. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the longitudinal cavity is capable of facilitating the alignment of the first optical connector and the second optical connector.

19. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 18, further comprising alignment guides inside the longitudinal cavity of the housing, the alignment guides capable of aligning the first optical connector to the second optical connector.

20. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising alignment wings adapted to the second end of the housing, the wings capable of holding the second optical connector.

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21. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising a cavity at the first end of the housing, the cavity functioning to house at least optoelectronic circuitry used in connection with the first optical connector.
22. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the cavity houses at least a portion of a flexible printed circuit board that is adapted to a mounting structure.
23. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising tabs adapted to the first end of the housing, the tabs capable of mating with slots on a mounting structure.
24. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising alignment pins adapted to the first end of the housing, the alignment pins capable of mating with pin-positioning holes on a mounting structure.
25. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising pin-positioning holes adapted to the first end of the housing, the pin-positioning holes capable of mating with alignment pins on a mounting structure.
26. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising screws adapted to the first end of the housing, the screws functioning to mate with screw holes on a mounting structure.
27. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising screw holes adapted to the first end of the housing, the screw holes functioning to mate with screws on a mounting structure.
28. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the first and second optical connectors are MT-type connectors.
29. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the first and second optical connectors are ferrules.

FROM WHITE &-CASE LLP

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30. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein the first and second optical connectors are MT-type ferrules.

Claims 31-51 (Canceled)